

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EUR-12 /102 W

-----221309Z 038615 /53

R 211040Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6144

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHAXU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CG, AG

1. ZAIRIAN CHARG'E, IS'OSAMBI ISEKUSU, CALLED ON ME MARCH 20 AT HIS URGENT REQUEST. EXACT PURPOSE OF HIS CALL NEVER CLEAR, BUT HE DID PROVIDE FOLLOWING INTERPRETATION OF KATANGEN EVENTS WHICH I PASS ON AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST.

2. ISEKUSU SOWATED THAT KATANGAN CONTINGENT NOW IN ZAIRE CONSISTS OF GROUP OF KATANGAN SOLDIERS WHO HAD FLED KATANGA AFTER TSHOMBE FALL, FOUGHT WITH PORTUGUESE AGAINST ANGOLAN INSURGENTS, AND THEN JOINED WITH NETO AND MPLA TO COMBAT UINTA AND FNLA. HE STATED THAT INSURGENTS WERE USING SOVIET WEAPONS AND HAD BEEN TRAINED BY CUBAN INSTRUCTORS IN ANGOLAN TRAINING CAMPS. WHEN ASKED IF HE KNEW OF ANY FOREIGN ADVISERS ACCOMPANYING KATANGAN TROOPS, HE SAID THAT THEY KNEW THERE WERE "WHITES" WITH KATANGANS BUT SAIDMYAT ANGOLA OR NETO WAS SPONSORING INVASION OF ZAIRE. HE PORTRAYED NETO AS MAN WHO HAD PROBLEM OF TWO TO FOUR THOUSAND ARMED KATANGANS IN HIS COUNTRY FOR WHOM HE HAD NO USE. HE DID NOT DARE DISARM THEM AND YET THEY CONSTITUTED POTENTIAL THREAT TO HIM. NETO'S ANSWER, ACCORDING TO ISEKUSU, WAS TO TRAIN AND

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ARM KATANGANS AND SEND THEM OFF TO RESOLVE THEIR FUTURE IN ZAIRE.

4. ISEKUSU STATED THAT KATANGANS' AIM WAS TO OCCUPY KEY ECONOMIC CHOKE POINTS AND TO STIFLE EXPLOITATION OF ZAIRE'S MINERAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO FORCE MOBUTU TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT ASSURING THEM OF PLACE IN ZAIRE. ISEKUSU STRESSED

THAT KATANGANS WERE NOT LEFTISTS, HAD NOT BEEN CONTAMINATED BY ASSOCIATION WITH NETO REGIME, AND THAT ALL KATANGANS WANTED WAS TO REACH AN ACCORD WITH CURRENT ZAIRE REGIME WHICH ASSURED THEM OF RIGHTS.

5. ALTHOUGH ABSOLVING ANGOLA AND NETO OF DESIGNS AGAINST ZAIRE, ISEKUSU DEPLORED NETO'S CRITICISM OF ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR INCREASED WESTERN SUPPORT AGAINST KATANGANS. HE NOTED THAT ZAIRE HAD MANY THOUSAND ANGOLAN REFUGEES AND IF NETO WISHED TO INITIATE GAME OF SUPPORTING SUBVERSION IN ZAIRE, ZAIRE HAD SOME CARDS TO PLAY IN ITS TURN.

6. ISEKUSU SAID HE HAD TAKEN NO INITIATIVE VIS-A-VIS ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN TO TRANSMIT TO MFA COPY OF REMARKS MADE BY ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT MEETING OF AMBASSADORS IN ZAIRE.
LYNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, KATANGANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770341/aaaabjan.tel
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Litigation History:
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Subject: ZAIRIAN CHARGE, IS\OSAMBI ISEKUSU, ON THE KATANGAN INVASION OF ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, CG, AG, AO
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